

Unknown

From: nali065@uottawa.ca
Sent: Monday, June 18, 2012 8:57 PM
To: Gordon Robertson; Gholamreza Rouhi
Subject: Re: Revisions

Attachments: Attachment 1.msg; Attachment 2.msg; Attachment 3.msg; Attachment 4.msg



Attachment
1.msg (24 KB)



Attachment
2.msg (27 KB)



Attachment
3.msg (158 KB)



Attachment
4.msg (21 KB)

Dr. Robertson and Dr. Rouhi:

Thank you for your attention on this matter. As warned by Dr. Hastings, I am facing grave risk of which the magnitude is unclear. As my mentors, I am writing to seek your assistance, to understand these risks, and to work with you to remove or reduce them.

Presently I am in the process of toning down the response to Dr. Benoit's comments, following your direction on this matter. Please advise whether a revision to Dr. Lemaire's comments is needed as well, evidently this would require more time. This may remedy certain facets of the issue. However, the best way to move forward is for me to sit down with individual examiners, whereby a discussion would allow me to ensure the issues raised have been satisfactorily met. I see this as the only way to successfully move forward unless you can suggest any other options? Recall Dr. Hastings' prior suggestions involving speaking with examiners directly, and thus far this avenue, although recommended by Dr. Hastings has not been explored (see attachments). Further, recall your phone conversation with Dr. Sviesstrup where we endeavored to correct the very same challenge we are now up against.

As I understand, the objective of revising the thesis and addressing points raised by the examiners via the thesis review sheet is to defend and graduate. I have done my very best to answer the issues raised by the examiners with professionalism and civility. But the fact remains that numerous issues raised by the examiners, particularly the comments made by Dr. Benoit, are non-constructive, meritless, subjective, non-scientific and irrelevant. Please understand it is very difficult and hurtful for me to have received some of the comments made by my respected colleagues especially given I have devoted over four years of my energy, time, passion, money and health to this research field. Here are further questions I have:

- 1) Can I be failed on issues that do not pertain to the content of my thesis?
- 2) What assurance can you give me that my compromise will guarantee a passing grade? It is very concerning that these changes in tone may not be pertinent nor sufficient to change a "fail" to a "pass". In addition, the "fail" I received will remain unchanged if I do not answer or elect to answer with "Will be addressed at the thesis defense" as we have done. As Dr. Hastings made clear, a second failure will outright deny me of any chance to defend my thesis. In the case of some examiners, I cannot conceivably see that amendments in tone will assist in changing the fail to a pass. This is especially important given most, if not all of the examiners, already have their respective review sheets.
- 3) What recourses are possible if examiners come back and say my "fail" status remains unchanged and the FGPS says "I must withdraw from the program"?
- 4) I could find no information on the School of Human Kinetics website or FGPS website on recourse/ appeal options available to a student who is at the thesis revision stage and facing failure. What are the University of Ottawa policies and procedures on appeal in this situation? Is there someone within the university that I can talk to about this present situation to understand my rights and options?

I sincerely believe the best approach moving forward is to open dialogue with each examiner personally and to address every issue that each one of them has raised. In fact, this has been my request for your permission from the start of the incident and I am considering it as my course of action when I meet with/ write to the Dean of FGPS. I am also considering seeking an independent reviewer to replace Dr. Benoit. Please assist me by answering the questions above. I await your answers and guidance prior to responding to Dr. Hastings. Your support, help and guidance is vital to solve present setbacks.

Sincerely,

Nicholas

> I have gone over and edited most of your comments. I think it should
> replace what you sent in previously.
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> You will see that I toned down a number of your comments.
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